

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 OMB-01 ACDA-05 AID-05 PC-01

SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 SCCT-01 SCA-01 SSO-00 OC-05 CCO-00

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H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 /099 W

----- 088840

O R 231325Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7923

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PROP, PFOR, UG, KE, SU

SUBJECT: ANTI-AMIN CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

REF: NAIROBI 1535, NAIROBI 1556, NAIROBI 1647

1. SUMMARY - PRESIDENTIALLY-INSPIRED NATIONWIDE DEMONSTRATIONS PROTESTING PRESIDENT AMIN'S RECENT CLAIM TO PART OF KENYA AND ANTI-AMIN PRESS COVERAGE ARE CONTINUING UNABATED DESPITE AMIN'S STATEMENT THAT HE WILL NOT USE MILITARY FORCE TO ADVANCE CLAIM. ANTI-AMIN CAMPAIGN, WHICH HAS SUCCESSFULLY MOBILIZED NORMALLY COMPLACENT KENYANS BEHIND GOK, MAY HAVE BEEN ENGINEERED TO

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DENY AMIN POSSIBLE ROLE IN KENYAN PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION

AS WELL AS TO SHOW UNITED POPULAR OPPOSITION TO MILITARILY
SUPERIOR OPPONENT. END SUMMARY.

2. GOK HAS FOLLOWED UP MASSIVE FEB 19 NAIROBI
DEMONSTRATION PROTESTING UGANDAN PRESIDENT IDI AMIN'S
RECENT CLAIM TO LARGE PART OF WESTERN KENYA (REFTELS)
WITH SIMILAR PROTEST RALLIES IN NEARLY EVERY TOWN
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. VIRTUALLY ALL LEADING KENYAN
POLITICIANS RETURNED TO THEIR TRIBAL AREAS OVER PAST
WEEKEND TO PARTICIPATE IN DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH LOCAL
SOURCES SAY ARE UNPRECEDENTED IN HISTORY OF KENYA
SINCE INDEPENDENCE. PRESIDENT KENYATTA HIMSELF AGAIN
VOICED STRONG DETERMINATION TO DEFEND KENYA'S BORDERS
IN HARD-HITTING FEB 22 SPEECH TO DELEGATION FROM
NATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATION. ACCORDING PRESS ACCOUNTS,
CROWD ESTIMATED AT 100,000 DEMONSTRATED DEFIANCE OF AMIN
AND LOYALTY TO GOK AT KISUMU, PRINCIPAL TOWN OF LUO TRIBE
WHOSE TERRITORY WAS INCLUDED IN AMIN'S CLAIM. ANOTHER
LARGE DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN MOMBASA FEB 23.

3. NAIROBI PRESS CONTINUES LEAD ITEM COVERAGE OF PROTEST
DEMONSTRATIONS AND IS PUBLISHING ANTI-AMIN MATERIAL INCLUDING
PHOTOGRAPHS DEPICTING ATROCITIES BY UGANDAN
SOLDIERS, LONG LINES OF UGANDANS WAITING IN FRONT OF
SHOPS AND OF EX-UGANDA PRESIDENT MILTON OBOTE WITH
CAPTION "OBOTE'S MEN WATCH." AMIN'S RECENT REMARKS
THAT HE IS NOT RPT NOT PLANNING TO GO TO WAR TO PRESS
TERRITORIAL CLAIM HAVE BEEN RELEGATED TO INSIDE PAGES
AND IGNORED AT DEMONSTRATIONS. DAILY NATION IN RECENT
EDITORIALS URGED GOK TO "DEAL" WITH KGB OFFICE AT SOVIET
EMBASSY IN NAIROBI (WHICH PAPER CHARGES IS BEHIND
AMIN), TO ROUND UP UGANDANS AND SOMALIS WHO ARE IN
KENYA ILLEGALLY AND TO MOVE AGAINST TREASONOUS KENYANS
WHO ARE AMIN'S COMMERCIAL PARTNERS. SUCH "GREEDY
INDIVIDUALS," PAPER SAID, SHOULD BE EXPOSED AND DISGRACED.

4. LAST REMARKS APPARENTLY DIRECTED AT VICE-PRESIDENT
MOI WHO IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN HEAVILY INVOLVED IN
TRADING ACTIVITIES WITH AMIN FOR SOMETIME. THIS
THINLY VEILED ATTACK ON MOI, COUPLED WITH PROMINENT
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PARTICIPATION IN DEMONSTRATIONS OF FORMER FONMIN MUNGA,
MOI'S ARCH-RIVAL, SUGGEST THAT VICE-PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL
FORTUNES MAY HAVE HIT A NEW LOW.

5. COMMENT: AS REPORTED REFTELS, KENYATTA AND GOK
HAVE BEEN MAJOR BENEFICIARIES OF ANTI-AMIN CAMPAIGN
WHICH HAS STRUCK RESPONSIVE NATIONALISTIC CHORD AMONG
NORMALLY COMPLACENT KENYANS. POSSIBLE EXPLANATION

FOR ONGOING EFFORT TO MOBILIZE PUBLIC OPINION MAY
BE DESIRE TO DENY AMIN ANY ROLE -- NOW OR IN FUTURE -- IN
KENYAN PREBIDENTIAL SUCCESSION POLITICS. ADDITIONALLY,
GOK MAY HAVE SETTLED ON SHOW OF OVERWHELMING POPULAR
SUPPORT AS BEST AVAILABLE DETERRENT AGAINST MILITARILY
SUPERIOR OPPONENT, ALTHOUGH RELIANCE ON SUCH A STRATEGY
COULD BACKFIRE BY PROVOKING AMIN. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS
CLEAR THAT ENTIRE CAMPAIGN FROM ITS INCEPTION HAS BEEN
PERSONALLY ORCHESTRATED BY KENYATTA.

DECON 1/1/77.

MARSHALL

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